

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T STATE 162102

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 356 - JULY 12, 1977

MOSCOW, KUWAIT, SANA FOR AMBASSADORS

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

1. ISRAEL. THE ISRAELI PRESS REPORTED THAT DMC-LIKUD
COALITION NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED JULY 10. THE TALKS ARE NOT
EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE BEGIN DEPARTS FOR
WASHINGTON, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL PAPERS. EMBASSY TEL
AVIV COMMENTED THAT BEGIN'S US TALKS MAY BECOME A FACTOR

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IN THE COALITION TALKS: IF BEGIN IS SEEN AS RIGID, IT
COULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE DMC TO JOIN,
WHEREAS FLEXIBILITY ON HIS PART COULD DISPEL LINGERING
DMC HESITATION.

2. AN OFFICIAL IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY TOLD OUR TEL
AVIV DEFENSE ATTACHE THAT IT WAS RECOMMENDING TO

BEGIN THAT HE DISCUSS SEVERAL DEFENSE-RELATED MATTERS

DURING HIS US VISIT. INCLUDED WOULD BE THE REQUEST FOR F-16 AIRCRAFT AND CO-PRODUCTION OF IT, SUPPORT FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF THE ISRAELI TANK, AND ISRAELI EXPORT SALES OF MILITARY HARDWARE. THE FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE ON EXACTLY WHICH SUBJECTS BEGIN WILL RAISE. DAVAR SAID YESTERDAY THAT IT HAD LEARNED THAT BEGIN WILL NOT DEVOTE MUCH TIME TO ARMS PROCUREMENT ISSUES DURING HIS STAY, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO FOCUS ON BASIC POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

3. BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED A TWO-MONTH INTERIM BUDGET TO THE KNESSET ON JULY 6. (THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO GAIN APPROVAL OF ITS BUDGET BEFORE THE ELECTION.) EMBASSY TEL AVIV COMMENTED THAT THE ORIGINAL BUDGET WAS UNDERMINED BY MAJOR WAGE CONCESSIONS GIVEN PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. THE INTERIM BUDGET WILL GIVE BEGIN BREATHING SPACE TO REVISE THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, EITHER BY RAISING TAXES OR CUTTING OUTLAYS. IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN, THE DEFICIT WILL BE 13 BILLION ISRAELI POUNDS (IL) INSTEAD OF THE ANTICIPATED IL5 BILLION.

4. THE LOCAL PAN AM AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED EMBASSY TEL AVIV THAT PAN AM HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH A US TRAVEL ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE CHARTER SERVICE FROM
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THE EAST COAST TO JERUSALEM'S ATAROT AIRPORT. THE SERVICE IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 27. APPROVAL IS STILL PENDING WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. THE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD--BUT WAS NOT SURE-- THAT A US NON-SCHEDULED CARRIER, CAPITOL AIRLINES, HAD ARRANGED FOR SIMILAR FLIGHTS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. JORDAN. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT JORDAN AND THE PLO MAY BE INTERESTED IN RESUMING THEIR DIALOGUE AIMED AT RECONCILIATION, WHICH HAS BEEN DORMANT SINCE LAST MARCH. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN MET WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVE ABU MAYZAR AT THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE, THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN A HASHEMITE OFFICIAL AND THE PLO SINCE THE MARCH MEETING BETWEEN HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT IN CAIRO.

6. MOREOVER, BOTH SIDES SEEM TO HAVE MADE CONCILIATORY GESTURES IN RECENT DAYS. ABU MAYZAR PRAISED JORDAN FOR ITS KNOWLEDGE OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND THE "POSITIVE ROLE" JORDAN WAS PLAYING IN THE PEACE PROCESS. HASSAN FELT THIS WAS INDIRECT ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE PLO THAT JORDAN SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE SUCH A

ROLE.

7. KING HUSSEIN WAS QUOTED IN AN INTERVIEW LAST WEEK IN KUWAIT'S AS-SIYASAH AS SAYING THAT, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES HAVE THEIR "OWN OPINIONS" AS TO HOW TO BETTER THEIR RELATIONS, "CIRCUMSTANCES WILL COME WHEN WE WILL MEET AND COME TO AN AGREEMENT." HUSSEIN ALSO SAID, IN RESPONSE TO THE INTERVIEWER'S QUESTION, THAT JORDAN HOPES TO EXTEND AN INVITATION "AT THE RIGHT TIME" TO ARAFAT TO VISIT AMMAN.

8. IF THE PLO-JORDANIAN DIALOGUE RESUMES IN EARNEST, HUSSEIN MAY ADVANCE WITH PLO LEADERS HIS 1972 CONCEPT OF A "UNITED ARAB KINGDOM" AS A POSSIBLE METHOD OF RESOLVING
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THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, DESPITE THE PLO'S PREVIOUSLY OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF IT. HUSSEIN HAS NEVER REALLY ABANDONED HOPE THAT HIS PROPOSAL IS STILL THE BEST FOR SOLVING THE WEST BANK PROBLEM.

9. THE UNITED ARAB KINGDOM, AS DELINEATED IN A LENGTHY DOCUMENT IN 1972, PROVIDES FOR A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF AUTONOMY FOR THE WEST BANK. IT CALLS FOR SEPARATE GOVERNORS, REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS FOR THE EAST AND WEST BANKS RESPECTIVELY. THE TWO REGIONS WOULD FALL UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MONARCHY AND A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

10. HUSSEIN FAVORS SOME FORM OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS THROUGH A PLEBISCITE, APPARENTLY IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD OPT FOR LINKAGE WITH JORDAN ALONG THE LINES OF THE UNITED ARAB KINGDOM. WE HAVE NOTED ON SEVERAL EARLIER OCCASIONS THAT SOME WEST BANKERS HAVE SAID THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT LINKAGE TO JORDAN IF THIS WERE A WAY TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION. THE CONCEPT, HOWEVER, COULD ENCOUNTER CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION FROM THOSE EAST BANK JORDANIANS WHO PREFER A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE SO AS TO MAINTAIN JORDAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. (SECRET)

11. EGYPT. EMBASSY CAIRO HAS REPORTED THAT THE TAKFIR (ATONEMENT) SOCIETY IS NOW ACCUSED OF THE JUNE 9 EXPLOSIONS IN DOWNTOWN CAIRO. THE WAVE OF ARRESTS CONTINUES (MORE THAN 300 NOW IN JAIL) THROUGHOUT EGYPT AND INTENSIVE INTERROGATIONS OF ARRESTEES ARE UNDERWAY. THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GROUP, A FORMER POLICE OFFICER, IS STILL AT LARGE. LEADER SHUKRI IS
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DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS A FORMER MUSLIM BROTHER WHO WAS
EXPELLED AS AN EXTREMIST. THE SADAT GOVERNMENT IS
GOING OUT OF ITS WAY TO ASSURE MORE RESPECTABLE ISLAMIC

GROUPS, INCLUDING THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, THAT THE
CRACKDOWN IS ONLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE FANATICS AND
THAT OTHER RIGHTISTS WILL NOT SUFFER. SUCH MOVES SEEM
LIKELY TO STRENGTHEN THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT BY ELIMINATING
THE FANATICS WHICH HAVE DONE MUCH TO DISCREDIT IT.
IN THE PAST, SADAT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE RIGHT.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

12. SYRIA. THE SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUES TO BLAME IRAQ
FOR LAST SUNDAY'S BOOBY-TRAPPED CAR BLAST. BAGHDAD RADIO
ADDED VALIDITY TO SYRIAN CLAIMS BY CARRYING A STATEMENT
BY THE "SYRIAN REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION" CLAIMING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BLAST AND PROCLAIMING ITS
INTENTION OF INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE ASSAD REGIME.
EMBASSY DAMASCUS OBSERVED THAT THIS EXPLOSION WAS
DESIGNED TO OCCUR WHEN THE STREETS WERE CROWDED.
THIS APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT THE PERPETRATORS ARE MORE
VICIOUS THAN THOSE IN THE PAST, WHO GENERALLY TIMED
BOMBS TO GO OFF WHEN FEW PEOPLE WERE ON THE STREETS.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

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